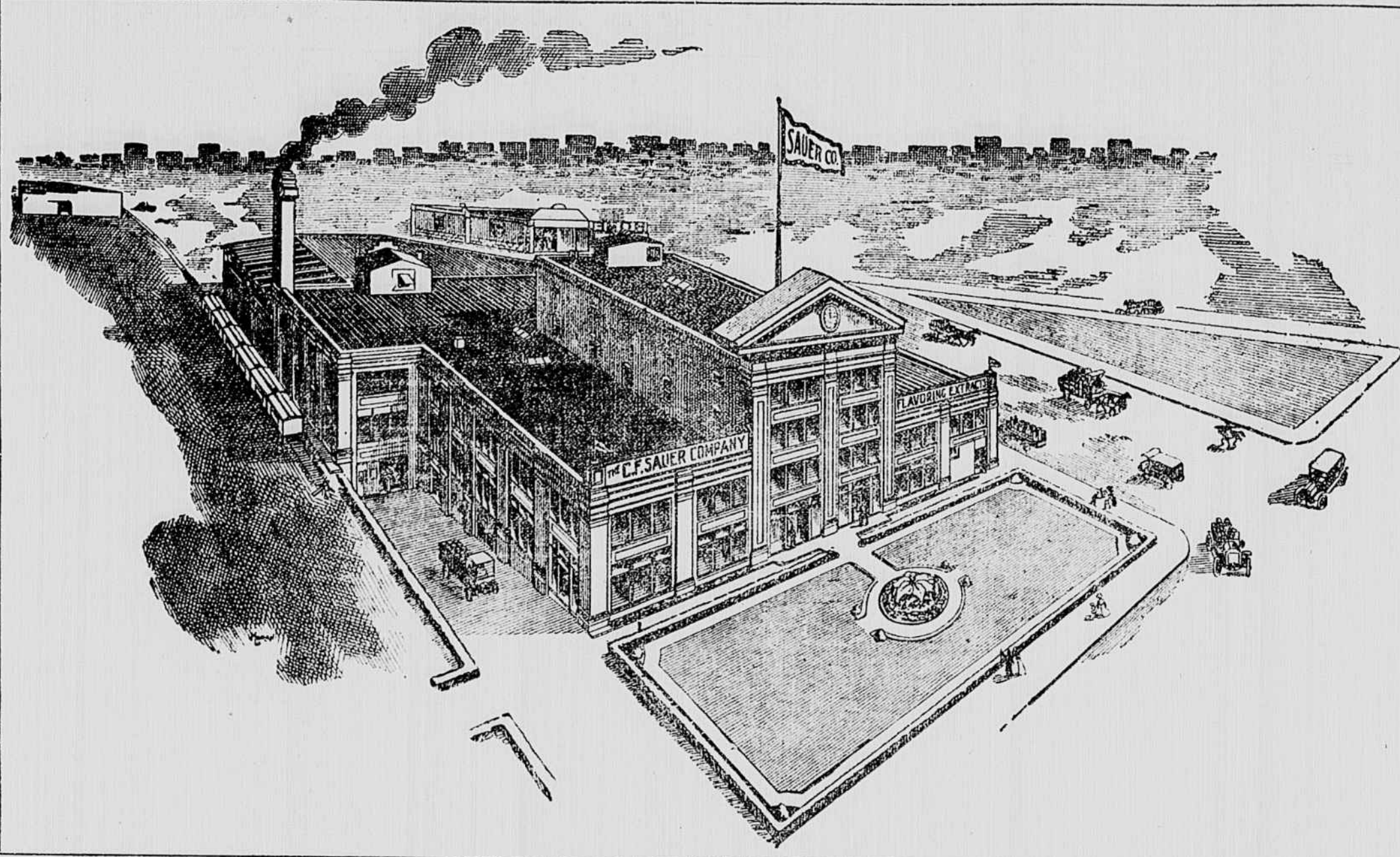


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VIEWS AND NEAR VIEWS; HINTS AND SUGGESTIONS

BY FRANK S. WOODSON,
Industrial Editor.

This column is open to contributors who have something to say of a suggestive nature, and who are willing to make hints and suggestions looking to the better development of the good old States of Virginia, West Virginia and North Carolina, and who can hold their suggestions down in any one issue to from 150 to 200 words. Such communications, addressed to the Industrial Editor, will receive prompt attention.

Richmond has always been interested in West Virginia, and now that all of that State, except three or four counties, is an important part of that territory mapped out by the operation of the new banking laws of the country, which Richmond is the capital, this city will naturally take a greater interest than ever in West Virginia. The Mountain State will also very naturally take a greater interest in Richmond. Now is the time for Richmond to hook on to West Virginia, and in a commercial way recapture the great country on the other side of the mountains that was taken from old Virginia through the exigencies of war. In some commercial sense, and in a financial way, Richmond

is again the capital of all Virginia, and right glad the capital city is of this distinction.

Some Valuable Figures.

In an address at the last annual meeting of the State Board of Trade of West Virginia, Chief Roads Engineer A. D. Williams emphasized some material facts about the State's resources, and threw out some valuable hints which ought to be and doubtless will be the wide-awake men of West Virginia to thinking and doing in a way that has not yet been tried as it should be. He said that since 1905 the State had exported \$50,000,000,000 of 1,175,000,000,000 feet of natural gas produced; that of 12,000,000 barrels of oil produced annually, practically all is sent from the State, and that of 61,770,350 tons of coal mined, 55,194,227 tons had been shipped. Mr. Williams dwelt upon the use of West Virginia's fuel resources for power, light and heat in other States as a basis for an argument for the imposition of a production tax on all natural gas to be spent in the construction of improved highways, but he took a wider range in stating that West Virginia was sacrificing itself in allowing its resources to go out to help develop the industrial interests of other States.

About Rents in Richmond.

One of the best business men in Richmond, one who is both a tenant and a property owner, writes the Industrial Editor a letter that is chock-full of good hints and suggestions. I give it in full. He says:

It is frequently heard that rents are high in Richmond. Is this true, and, if so, why? From the owner's standpoint, it is not true, because the rentals received will not, I believe, pay the owners over 5 per cent net. Certainly this is not an excessive return on money invested. Then the trouble is with the tenant, in not taking proper care of the property, and thereby subjecting the owner to heavy repairs. I venture to say that repair bills on property occupied by owners are 50 per cent less than that occupied by tenants.

If the tenant would treat the property as his own, then repairs would be less and rents less. There is a cry that the negroes pay more rent than the whites; the net revenues will hardly show it, the difference going in abuse and neglect by tenants. A hall here and there does not mean money saved to your landlord, as you think, but less rent to you, it may be not this month, but surely in the end.

I know of an occasional good, considerate and far-sighted tenant, who

is charged less rent, because he treats the house as he would his own.

Another suggestion to the agents: can you not arrange a form of lease which will state that repairs per year shall not exceed a certain per cent of the rent? This might show the tenant that the owner is entitled to something, and induce the tenant to treat the property better.

Richmond Chamber's Big Move.

Speaking about rents and the like of that, it is well enough to remark right here that there has been more or less complaint for several years of the paucity of suitable homes for working people in this good city. I am informed that the biggest thing the Chamber of Commerce has on its program for this year and next year, too, as for that matter, is to remove all cause of this complaint. That is what annexation of new territory means, and the Chamber is already perfecting its plans to do a great work in the way of providing homes at rentals that are reachable by the working people. It is no longer a secret that by the time the annexation question is settled and the boundaries of the city rearranged the chamber will have organized one or more companies whose business it will be to build homes in the annexed territory to be rented cheap to working people and to be sold to such of them as wish to buy on

terms that they can meet. A great work this will be, and no one can calculate the benefits it will be to Greater Richmond. No use to have a regional bank here unless we make Greater Richmond the greatest manufacturing centre in all of that territory of which she is the financial centre. To do that we must have workmen to man the factories, and to get the workmen we must have decent homes for them. The chamber is, as usual, on the right track.

Oil for Texas.

The annual convention of the Southern Supply and Machinery Dealers' Association is to be held in Houston, Texas, this week. Among the many speakers on the program is Alvin M. Smith, of the Smith-Courtesy Company, of this city. His theme will be "Salesmen on a Salary Basis as Against a Commission Basis." Incidentally, Mr. Smith will doubtless give the convention some mighty good reasons why the next annual convention should be held in Richmond.

J. J. Adamson, of Manassas, Va., is in search of a location for a window-glass plant to cost \$30,000. He isn't modest about it either, for he seeks a location where free site, cheap fuel gas, investment to reasonable amount in company, etc., are obtainable. Mr. Adamson is a general contractor, now building glass, brick and bottle works for West Virginia manufacturers.

Possibly some good Virginia town may be interested in this proposition, but I doubt it. Virginia towns go rather slow on propositions calling for so much free gas, and perhaps this is good enough policy.

AMELIA COUNTY HAS FAIR.

Exhibition at the County Seat.

Jetersville, Va., April 12.—The first District School Fair to be pulled off in Amelia County was held here last Tuesday with marked success. There are four graded schools in Leigh District—Jetersville, first prize; Rodolph, second prize; and Farley, third prize to Jetersville.

In primary writing, Ola Kidwell, of Rodolph school, received first prize. In grammar-grade writing, Natalie Thompson, of Jetersville, won first prize. In freehand drawing, Edith Garrel, of Jetersville, first prize; Claudine Dunnivant, of Rodolph, second prize.

Relief-map drawing, George Ford, first and Maude Thompson, second, both of Jetersville.

Products map, Edith Garrett, first prize, and Claudine Dunnivant, second.

Political map-drawing, Resse Foreman, of Jetersville, first prize.

Beatrice Thompson, of Jetersville, won first prize on both sewing and basket making.

Cooking, Resse Foreman, first prize, and Cornelia Wingo, of Morven School, second.

After dinner had been served by the ladies, the literary program was rendered, during which the Jetersville School rendered some good music.

In the storytelling contest between

five primary children, Russell Elam came first and Sallie Southall, second. In the spelling contest, Claudine Dunnivant won first and George Ford, second.

In the contest of essays on the subject of "How to Make An Ideal Country Home," Sarah Clark, of Jetersville, won first prize and Claudine Dunnivant, second.

In a 100-yard dash for small boys, Carson Ray came in first, Johnson-

thall second and George Ford, third. The committee for awarding prizes consisted of Mr. Elam, Mr. Barnhart, Mrs. Kidwell, Mrs. Mann and Mr. Norfleet.

School-work committee, Mr. Lacy, Mrs. Elam and Mrs. Hillsman.

C. B. Bowry, the division superintendent of schools, was president of the fair; and to him is due much credit for the success of the day's entertainment. Professor Barnhart, principal of the Amelia High School, also took an active part.

BRIGHT TOBACCO IN CHESTERFIELD

Petersburg Is Right After the Golden Weed—Chamber of Commerce Working.

Pikinton, Va., April 11.—Mr. Belvin has taken the place of Mr. Pugh, bright tobacco demonstrator from the Chamber of Commerce of Petersburg, and is very busy in the Clover Hill district of Chesterfield County. Mr. Belvin is very much in earnest, as may be seen by a letter just received from him by a farmer, he was unable to reach otherwise.

In this letter Mr. Belvin gives concise but complete instructions as to the preparation of the plant bed, and the Petersburg people will furnish help at the curing season. Many Chesterfield farmers are interested in the cured tobacco, and it is more than likely that others would be interested if greater publicity could be given the opportunities now open.

Mr. Belvin writes as follows, and his letter was read yesterday at the meeting of the Clover Hill Club:

"Select a place that will be moist and with southern exposure. Clean off at once so it will dry. Then burn with brush and wood; hoe up shallow, get out roots, put on hoe pen manure and chop this in. Then apply fifty pounds of guano to 100 square yards, rake this in. Mix seed with ashes and sow them regularly as possible. Take a brush broom and whip the bed over and tramp it evenly. If you sow the seed six to ten hours in milk-warm water it helps considerably. Any one who can grow the dark tobacco can grow the bright weed. Help will be accorded in the curing, so if three or four neighbors will get together on this, they will all do well. We will see that you get some help, anyhow.

"Just let me know when and where half a dozen of your farmers can get together, and I will be with them if you tell me how to get there.

"Yours for business,

"N. J. BELVIN."

The Clover Hill Club will doubtless arrange to have a few days' strenuous work for Mr. Belvin. Some of the farmers say that bright tobacco will quadruple the value of their farms.

FACTS FROM AFAR.

Brief Notes of More or Less Industrial Character From All the World.

This country bought goods in France last year valued at \$140,000,000.

Of the 477 women doctors in England, the greater majority are married.

Protestants of the United States gave \$15,298,000 to foreign missions in 1912. Ninety per cent of the farms of this

country are said to be without any sheep.

Chile plans to spend more than \$22,000,000 in the next four years reorganizing its railways.

For the Russian governmental railways some huge purchases are to be made—17,000 freight cars, 1,400 passenger cars and 700 refrigerator cars. Japanese hatmakers are making a hat which is difficult to detect from the South American Panama.

There is more whiskey now stored in Kentucky than there was in the whole country a decade ago.

From 1,000,000 to 1,500,000 goat skins and sheep skins are shipped from Arabia each year. The exports of these skins to all countries last year were officially valued at \$235,027.

By the use of steel instead of brass in rifle cartridges, the German army has increased the number of rounds of ammunition that a soldier can carry from 120 to 160.

Ten German locomotives have been ordered by an English railway, domestic shops being too busy to accept the order. British rail locomotives were exported to the value of \$10,400,000 in 1912 and \$13,600,000 in 1913.

Eggs from certain sections of Belgium enjoy a high reputation in other countries, and are exported in considerable numbers to France, Germany and England. It is said, however, that exports could be increased if greater attention were given to packing. The number of eggs imported in 1913 was 132,000,000, as compared with 120,000,000 in 1912.

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